

Remarks

The Office Action mailed July 15, 2005 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-31 are pending in this application. Claims 1-31 stand rejected. The Office Action, however, indicates that this application is in condition for allowance except for a deficiency described below.

The Office Action indicates that this application is in condition for allowance except the Examiner has requested that Applicants insert a step in Claim 1 positively reciting "determining a winning bid in order for the intended result recited in the preamble to be realized". The Examiner further advises Applicants to include a similar recitation in independent Claims 11 and 21.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1, 11 and 21 have been amended as requested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present patent application is in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



Daniel M. Fitzgerald
Registration No. 38,880
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070